

think that is probably a summary to this point. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Beutler, your amendment is pending. Would you bring us up to date on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Does that include projections as to what may happen in the future also, Mr. Speaker? The amendment that is pending before you, simply to summarize, goes to what I perceive, at least, to be some of the financial lackings in this particular bill, and I guess I want to reemphasize that it is the financial aspects and not the assistance portion or the emphasis on providing some indigent services that is involved in this particular amendment. But, basically, what it does, it allows a county to opt out in the sense that it can declare that it declines services or assistance that might be provided under that act. And, in the event that a particular county should choose to do that, then it would get appropriated directly to it a portion of the state appropriations that would otherwise go to the funding of these services, in accordance with its population, that is, whatever the population of that county is compared to the population of the state as a whole, then that proportion of the appropriations that would go to funding this program would go directly to the county instead of to this program. What does that do? It does simply this. It provides the largest measure of local control. The local people can decide they want to use these services, they want this insurance policy. This has been described by Senator Kristensen to a large extent as an insurance policy, and this would allow counties to decide whether they want this insurance policy or whether they want to do it all on their own. Now I suppose I have gone beyond also simply describing the amendment. I wasn't sure how far we were to go at this point, but let me leave it at that, having explained again the purpose of the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, if you'd like to use this as one of your times to speak and continue to debate the amendment, you'd have about two and a half minutes left, or if you'd rather pass onto the rest of the debate.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I will just pass.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the